

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 were rejected under Section 102 over Hayashi.

In Hayashi, the heating is for burning the particulates. Therefore, a rapid rise in the temperature is not required.

In contrast, in the EHC (electrically heated catalyst) of the claimed invention, the rapid rise in the temperature is required since the exhaust emission control performance needs to be enhanced at the start of the engine when the temperature of the exhaust gas is low. Therefore, increasing exhaust gas contact with the heat of the EHC by utilizing the U-turn construction will effect a rapid rise in the temperature.

The claimed invention is characterized by the combination of the U-turn construction and the EHC. See Specification at page 9, lines 1-6, and Figure 3. The U-turn construction is set forth in claim 1 "... opens into said second expansion chamber so that said warmed exhaust gas flows back through said electrically heated catalyst portion in order to introduce said exchange gas into said first expansion chamber ...".

Claims 1, 2, and 4 were rejected as anticipated by Huang.

Huang also does not disclose the combination of the U-turn construction and the EHC.

Therefore, the application should now be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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